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Plus:
**BONUS
STORY!**
BATMAN and
ROBIN---
TOGETHER
AGAIN!

BAT MAN



YOU'RE NOT THE
BATMAN... YOU'RE
JUST ONE OF *US*!

ENTER... **ASYLUM
SINISTER!**



THEY SAY
THIS MAN
IS MAD!

THUS, THEY HAVE BOUND HIS ARMS AND LOCKED
HIM AWAY IN A CAREFULLY-PADDED CELL, TO PREVENT
HIM FROM DOING HARM TO HIMSELF--OR OTHERS!

BUT STUDY THIS MAN
CAREFULLY, FRIEND--AND
PERHAPS YOU WILL RECOGNIZE
THE COLD LIGHT OF SANITY
THAT HIDES BEHIND THE
GLEAM OF MADNESS
IN HIS EYES!

FOR,
YOU SEE--
THIS MAN
IS ME!

BATMAN

ASYLUM SINISTER!

CREATED BY

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MAN, LISTEN TO HIM **RAVING** IN THERE! THAT GUY IS **CRAZIER** THAN A BUCKETFUL OF **BEDBUGS**!



YEAH-- IT'S EASY TO UNDERSTAND WHY **STATE PRISON** HAD HIM TRANSFERRED HERE TO **ARKHAM ASYLUM**!

BUT WHAT **AIN'T** EASY TO UNDERSTAND IS WHY THE **DIRECTOR** IS SO INTERESTED IN THIS "**SHANK**" TAYLOR NUT!



BEATS ME! I CAN'T SEE HOW HE'LL BE MUCH USE TO US!

RIGHT NOW, HE'S NOT MUCH USE TO ANYONE!

WHILE, IN THE PADDED CELL...

FOOTSTEPS FADING... THEY'RE GONE!



NO LONGER ANY NEED TO KEEP UP THE PRE-TEXT OF **MADNESS**--!

IT'S TIME I DID A LITTLE **INVESTIGATING**-- FOUND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND HERE--!



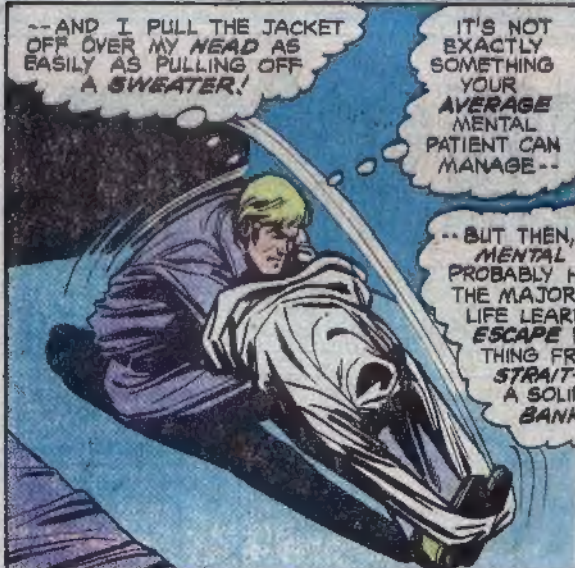
AND GETTING OUT OF RESTRAINTS DESIGNED TO HOLD A CRAZED "**SHANK**" TAYLOR IS **CHILD'S PLAY** FOR THE WORLD'S GREATEST **ESCAPE ARTIST**!

ALL I HAVE TO DO IS HOOK THE **SLEEVES** OF MY STRAIT-JACKET UNDER MY **HEELS**--

--THEN **STRAIGHTEN** MY LEGS--



--AND I PULL THE JACKET OFF OVER MY **HEAD** AS EASILY AS PULLING OFF A **SWEATER**!



IT'S NOT EXACTLY SOMETHING YOUR **AVERAGE MENTAL PATIENT** CAN MANAGE--

-- BUT THEN, YOUR **AVERAGE MENTAL PATIENT** PROBABLY HASN'T SPENT THE MAJORITY OF HIS LIFE LEARNING HOW TO **ESCAPE** FROM EVERYTHING FROM A SIMPLE **STRAIT-JACKET** TO A **SOLID-STEEL BANK VAULT**!

THE **NEXT STEP** IS GETTING OUT OF THIS **CELL** ITSELF--



--BUT THE MINIATURE PICKLOCK I SMUGGLED IN HERE UNDER MY TONGUE SHOULD MAKE THAT RELATIVELY SIMPLE!



I DIDN'T BRING ANYTHING MORE IN WITH ME FOR FEAR IT MIGHT BE DISCOVERED--

--BUT IF I'D KNOWN WHAT I WAS GETTING MYSELF INTO, I MIGHT HAVE TRIED!



"IT SEEMED LIKE SUCH AN EASY CASE AT FIRST--UNTIL COMMISSIONER GORDON INVESTIGATED A COMBINATION JEWEL THEFT/MURDER--

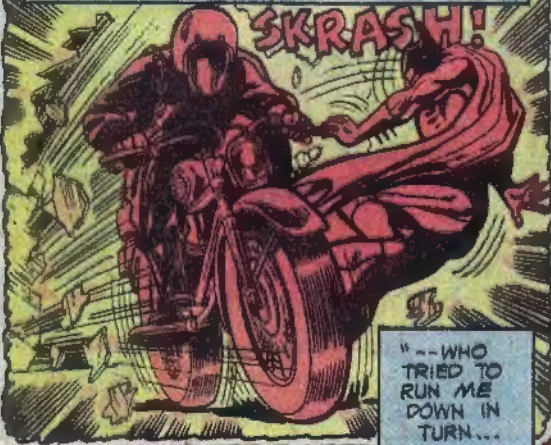


PLEASE STOP ME-- BEFORE I HURT ANYONE ELSE!

"-- AND DISCOVERED IT WAS APPARENTLY COMMITTED BY A MAN WHO WAS LOCKED AWAY HERE AT ARKHAM!

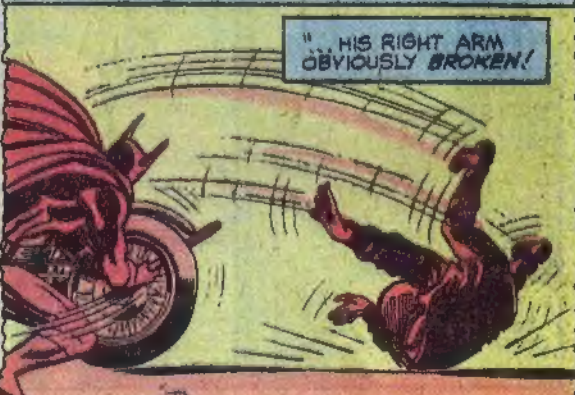


"A FEW NIGHTS LATER, I RAN INTO A JEWEL THIEF OF MY OWN--



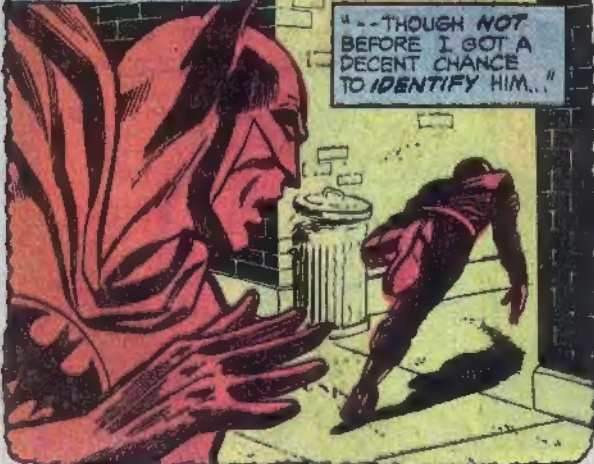
"--WHO TRIED TO RUN ME DOWN IN TURN...

"A LITTLE QUICK THINKING--AND A SOLID STEEL BAR--HELPED ME UNSOAT THE BLOOD-THIRSTY BIKER, WHO LANDED IN AN AWKWARD HEAP...



"... HIS RIGHT ARM OBVIOUSLY BROKEN!

"YET EVEN WITH A WOUNDED WING, HE MANAGED TO ESCAPE ME--



"--THOUGH NOT BEFORE I GOT A DECENT CHANCE TO IDENTIFY HIM..."

THAT INSANE CYCLIST WAS "MADMAN" MARKHAM--



--A CHARACTER I MYSELF HAD SEEN COMMITTED HERE TO ARKHAM!



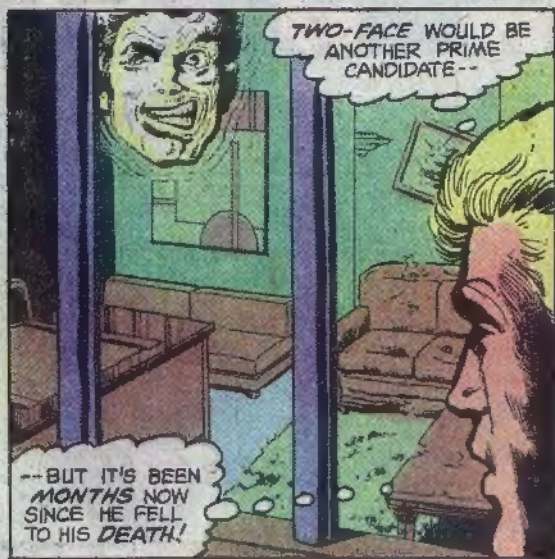
EITHER SOMEONE HAS BEEN *IMPERSONATING* THOSE POOR PSYCHOTICS--OR THE *INMATES* REALLY DO HAVE THE *KEYS* TO THIS PLACE!

BUT *EITHER* WAY, I'VE GOT TO FIND OUT WHO'S *RESPONSIBLE*!



MY OLD ADVERSARY *MAXIE ZEUS* WOULD BE A LIKELY *SUSPECT*--

--BUT I CAN'T IMAGINE HIM *STAYING* HERE IF HE HAD A WAY OUT!



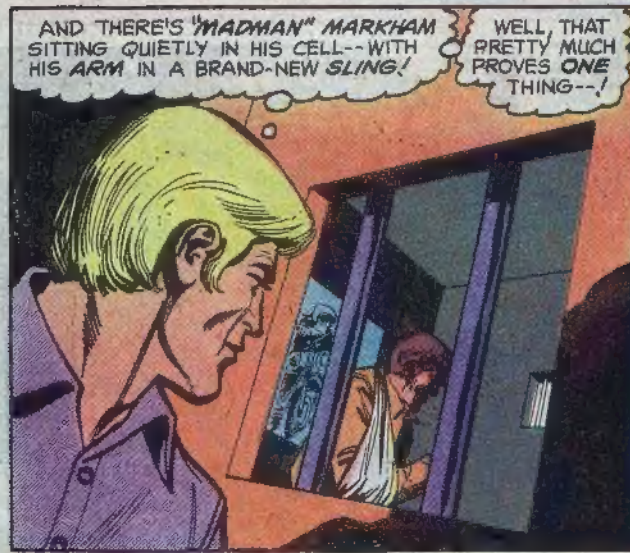
TWO-FACE WOULD BE ANOTHER PRIME CANDIDATE--

--BUT IT'S BEEN *MONTHS* NOW SINCE HE FELL TO HIS *DEATH*!



THIS IS JUST THE SORT OF SCHEME *THE JOKER* MIGHT TRY--

--BUT THAT GRINNING GARGOYLE IS *ALSO* SUPPOSED TO BE DEAD!



AND THERE'S "*MADMAN*" *MARKHAM* SITTING QUIETLY IN HIS CELL--WITH HIS *ARM* IN A BRAND-NEW *SLING*!

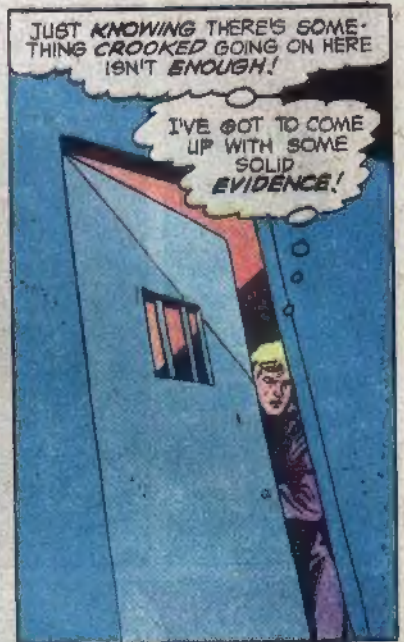
WELL, THAT PRETTY MUCH PROVES *ONE* THING--!

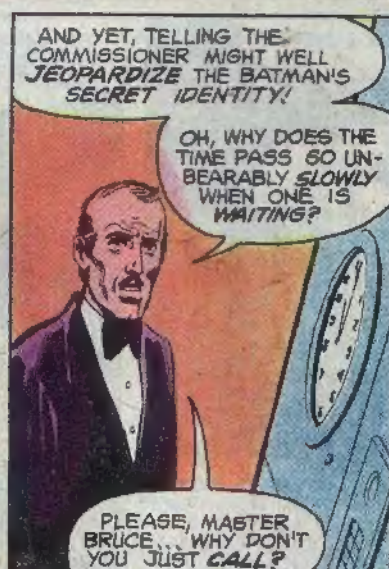
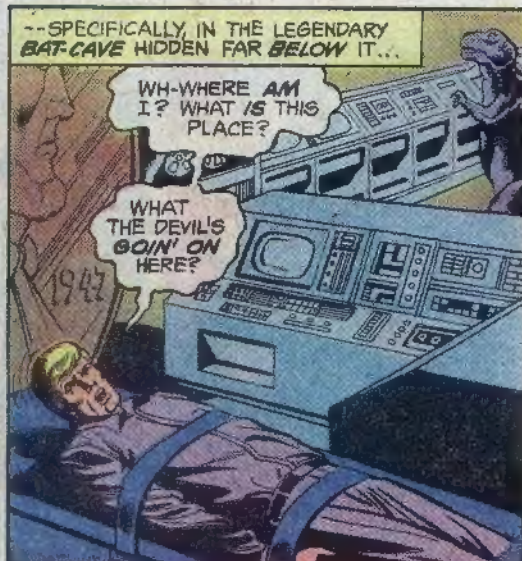


THERE IS *DEFINITELY* SOME SORT OF *RACKET* OPERATING OUT OF THIS ASYLUM--

--AND IT'S UP TO *ME* TO PUT A *STOP* TO IT!

CONTINUED ON 382 PAGE FOLLOWING.





--BACK AT ARKHAM, THINGS ARE STARTING TO PICK UP SPEED...



OKAY, TAYLOR--ON YOUR FEET!

WHY--? WHAT'S HAPPENING--?!

SEEMS THE DIRECTOR WANTS TO HAVE A LITTLE TALK WITH YOU!

AND HE DON'T LIKE TO BE KEPT WAITING!



THIS IS JUST WHAT I'VE BEEN HOPING FOR! MAYBE NOW I'LL FINALLY FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND HERE--



--ALTHOUGH I ALREADY HAVE A PRETTY GOOD IDEA!

AH, MR. TAYLOR-- PLEASE COME IN!



I SEE YOU'VE CALMED DOWN AT LAST AFTER YOUR UNFORTUNATE LITTLE OUTBURST LAST EVENING!

YEAH... THAT INJECTION YOUR BULLY-BOYS GAVE ME WORKED WONDERS!

I'D HAVE BEEN ASTONISHED IF IT HADN'T!

BRUNO... GEORGE... YOU MAY RELEASE MR. TAYLOR FROM HIS RESTRAINTS NOW!

WHATEVER YOU SAY, BOSS--BUT I THINK YOU'RE MAKING A MISTAKE!



MY DEAR BRUNO, YOU'RE NOT BEING PAID TO THINK!

NOW WHY DON'T YOU ENJOY A HOT CUP OF TEA, MR. TAYLOR-- WHILE WE GET DOWN TO BUSINESS?



WHAT SORT OF BUSINESS, MILO?

HMMM--TEA SMELLS OKAY, BUT I STILL WOULDN'T DOUBT MILO HAS DRUGGED IT SOMEHOW!

BETTER JUST PRETEND TO DRINK IT!



IT'S MOST FORTUNATE YOU ARRIVED HERE WHEN YOU DID, MR. TAYLOR--

--BECAUSE YOU ARE ABOUT TO BECOME PART OF THE MOST LUCRATIVE MONEY-MAKING SCHEME SINCE THE INVENTION OF THE PRINTING PRESS!



GO ON, MILO-- I'M LISTENING!

ACTUALLY, THE SET-UP IS EMBARRASSINGLY SIMPLE!

AS YOU CAN SEE, I'VE MANAGED TO REPLACE THE TRUE ASYLUM DIRECTOR--WHO EVEN NOW RESIDES IN ONE OF HIS OWN PADDED CELLS!

BUT WHY BOTHER?

BECAUSE THIS ASYLUM IS A VERITABLE CORNUCOPIA OF UNTAPPED TALENT!

FOR THE PAST FEW WEEKS, I HAVE BEEN USING CERTAIN OF THE INMATES HERE TO COMMIT THE VERY SORT OF CRIMES THAT FIRST LED TO THEIR INCARCERATION!

I THEN COLLECT FIFTY-PERCENT OF THEIR TAKE IN EXCHANGE FOR THE IRON-CLAD ALIBI I PROVIDE SHOULD THEY EVER BE RECOGNIZED!

AFTER ALL, HOW COULD ANY OF MY ASSOCIATES POSSIBLY BE GUILTY OF ANY WRONGDOING WHILE THEY'RE HERE IN ARKHAM, SAFELY LOCKED AWAY?

CUTE-- BUT WHAT DOES ALL OF THIS HAVE TO DO WITH ME?

ISN'T IT OBVIOUS? YOU WERE ONCE ONE OF GOTHAM CITY'S TOP JEWEL THIEVES--

--AND NOW THAT FATE HAS DELIVERED YOU HERE, I WANT YOU TO PLAY YOUR TRADE AGAIN...

...FOR ME!

WELL, YOU CAN TAKE ALL YOUR PLANS AND STUFF 'EM, MILO!

NOBODY TELLS "SHANK" TAYLOR WHAT TO DO!

SEE, BOSS-- I WARNED YOU!

SMAASH!

THIS GUY'S STILL CRAZY!

CRAZY, AM I? I'LL SHOW YOU--!

DEAR ME, I THINK YOU'D BEST TAKE MR. TAYLOR BACK TO HIS CELL FOR NOW, BOYS!

ONCE HE'S HAD A CHANCE TO CONSIDER MY GENEROUS OFFER, I'M SURE HE'LL COME TO REALIZE--

-- HE REALLY DOESN'T HAVE ANY CHOICE IN THE MATTER!

NO CHOICE AT ALL!

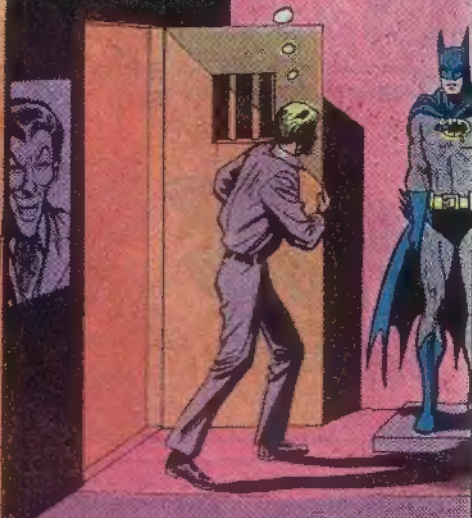
AND A SHORT TIME LATER,
WHEN THE ASYLUM CORRI-
DORS ARE DESERTED ONCE
MORE...

MILO'S
MEGALOMANIA HAS
MADE MY JOB HERE THAT
MUCH EASIER!

HE TOLD ME
EVERYTHING
I NEEDED
TO KNOW,
AND THEN
SOME--

--AND NOW
I'M GOING
TO USE THAT
INFORMATION
TO NAIL HIM!

THERE WAS NO WAY FOR ME TO HIDE
MY COSTUME UNDER THESE PRISON
GREYS WHEN I WAS BROUGHT HERE--



--BUT THIS OUTFIT THE JOKER'S
TARGET DUMMY IS WEARING SHOULD
JUST ABOUT FIT ME PERFECTLY!



IF I KNOW MILO, HE AND HIS GOONS WON'T
SURRENDER WITHOUT A FIGHT--

--AND
THAT
SUITS
ME JUST
FINE!



BUT I'LL FEEL
A LOT MORE
COMFORTABLE
PUTTING THEM AWAY
WHILE WEARING MY
WORKING CLOTHES
INSTEAD OF...OF...

WH-WHAT'S
WRONG WITH
ME--?/?



MY HEAD--SPINNING--!
CAN'T SEE STRAIGHT--!

EVERYTHING'S
GOING--

--BLACK--



FOR A TIME, THE
BLACKNESS IS ALL
THE DARK KNIGHT KNOWS--
--BUT THEN, AT LAST...

WH-WHAT
HAPPENED...?

EH? MY ARMS--
BOUND!

WH-WHERE
AM I?

TAKE A GOOD LOOK AROUND
YOU, MY FRIEND--YOU ARE
WHERE YOU BELONG!

CUTE,
MILD--

--BUT YOUR
LITTLE GAME
WON'T WORK!

THIS
STRAIT-
JACKET
CAN'T
HOLD
ME!

I'M THE
BATMAN.
REMEMBER?

OF COURSE YOU
ARE, MY FRIEND--

--AND THAT
GENTLEMAN IS
NAPOLEON--

--AND THAT
DEAR LADY
IS JOAN
OF ARC!

BUT I AM
THE BATMAN--
I AM!

NO, YOU AREN'T-- YOU'RE
JUST ONE OF US!

AND THAT
MEANS
YOU'RE
STARK,
RAVING MAD!!

I STILL CAN'T SEE WHY WE DON'T KILL THE BATMAN, AND BE DONE WITH IT!

BECAUSE IT LACKS FINESSE, GEORGE. WHAT GREATER IRONY THAN TO REDUCE THE BATMAN TO MINDLESS JELLY, AND LEAVE HIM HERE--

--A HELPLESS PRISONER IN THE SELFSAME ASYLUM TO WHICH HE'S SENT SO MANY OTHERS!

THE FOOL STILL DOESN'T REALIZE THAT I EXPECTED HIM TO AVOID DRINKING THE DRUGGED TEA--

--SO I COATED THE CUP ITSELF WITH A SPECIAL CONTACT POISON THAT HE ABSORBED RIGHT THROUGH HIS PORES!

INGENIOUS, DON'T YOU THINK?

YOU KNOW, IF YOU REALLY ARE THE BATMAN, MY FRIEND-- YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO PROVE IT!

SURELY THE WORLD'S GREATEST ESCAPE ARTIST WOULD HAVE NO TROUBLE FREEING HIMSELF FROM THE STRAIT-JACKET THAT BINDS YOU!

JUST WATCH ME, WISE-GUY!

AND ONCE I FINISH WITH THIS JACKET, I'M GOING TO START ON YOU--!

HAVING DIFFICULTY, MY FRIEND?

I... I...

WHICH IS ONLY NATURAL SINCE I TAMPERED WITH THE JACKET A LITTLE EARLIER!

STILL TOO WEAK... TOO DIZZY...

YOU WIN, MILO-- FOR NOW!

COME NOW, MY FRIEND-- PERHAPS YOU CAN PASS A SIMPLER TEST!

WOULD THE EVER-OBSERVANT BATMAN HAVE ANY TROUBLE SPOTTING WHICH SHELL THE LITTLE PEA IS HIDDEN UNDER?

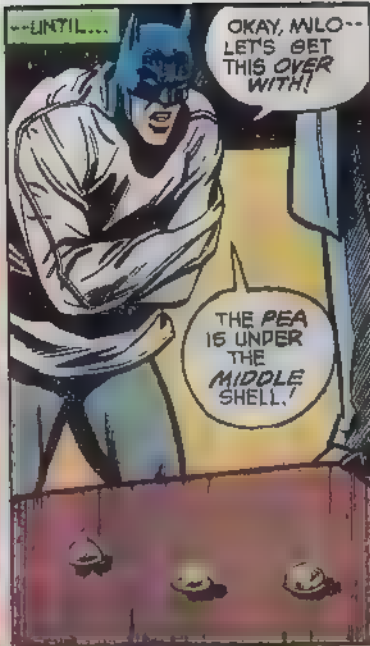
THIS IS ABSURD, MILO!

HUSH, MY FRIEND-- AND WATCH CLOSELY!

WITH A SKILL BORN OF AL-
MOST-RELENTLESS PRACTICE,
THE GHARLED HANDS MANEUVER
THE WORN WALNUT SHELLS
AROUND THE TABLE--



--UNTIL--



OKAY, MILO--
LET'S GET
THIS OVER
WITH!

THE PEA
IS UNDER
THE
MIDDLE
SHELL!

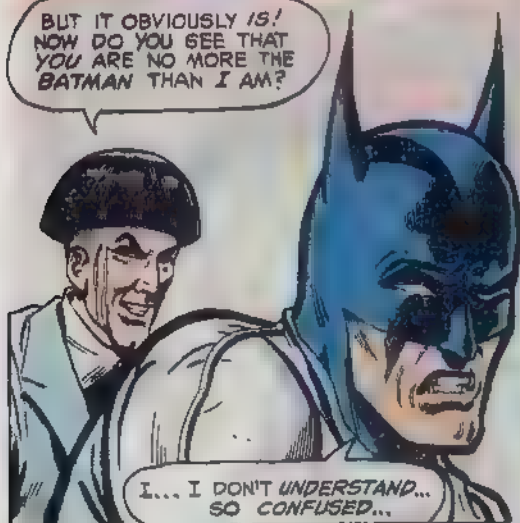
NOT EVEN
CLOSE,
COWBOY!

CARE TO
GUESS
AGAIN?

NO--IT CAN'T
BE--!

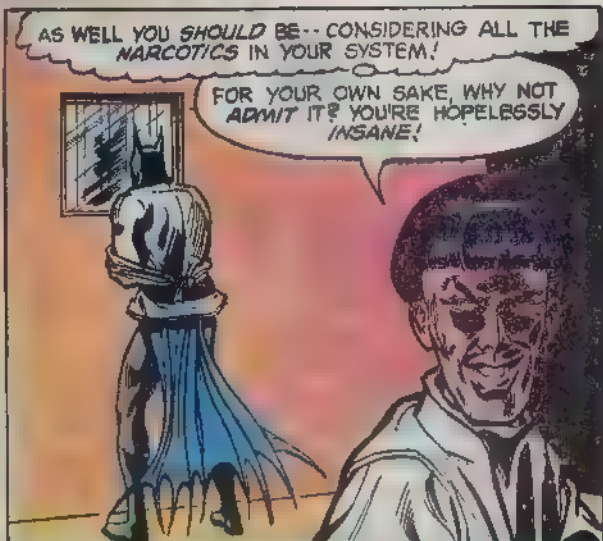


BUT IT OBVIOUSLY IS!
NOW DO YOU SEE THAT
YOU ARE NO MORE THE
BATMAN THAN I AM?



I... I DON'T UNDERSTAND...
SO CONFUSED...

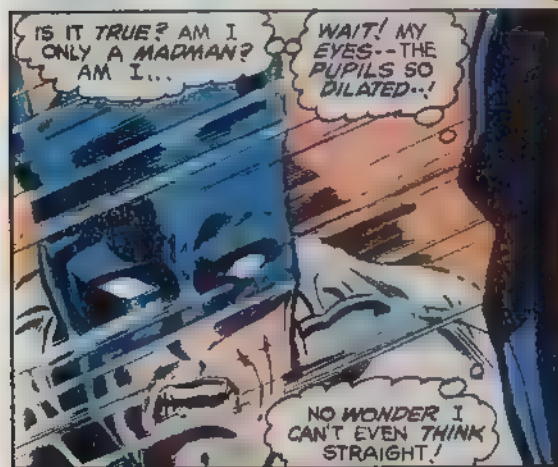
AS WELL YOU SHOULD BE-- CONSIDERING ALL THE
NARCOTICS IN YOUR SYSTEM!



FOR YOUR OWN SAKE, WHY NOT
ADMIT IT? YOU'RE HOPELESSLY
INSANE!

IS IT TRUE? AM I
ONLY A MADMAN?
AM I...

WAIT! MY
EYES--THE
PUPILS SO
DILATED--!

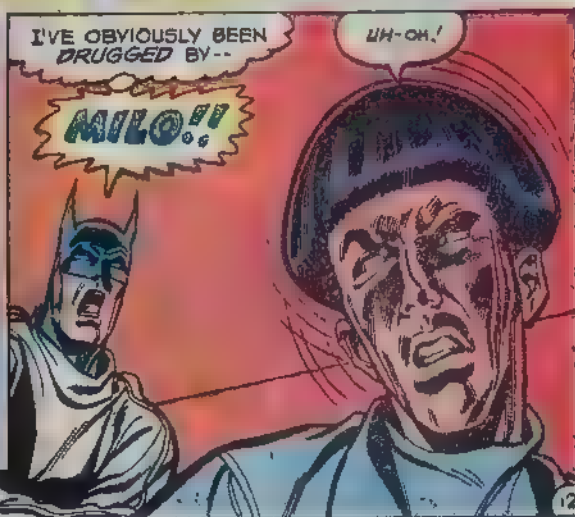


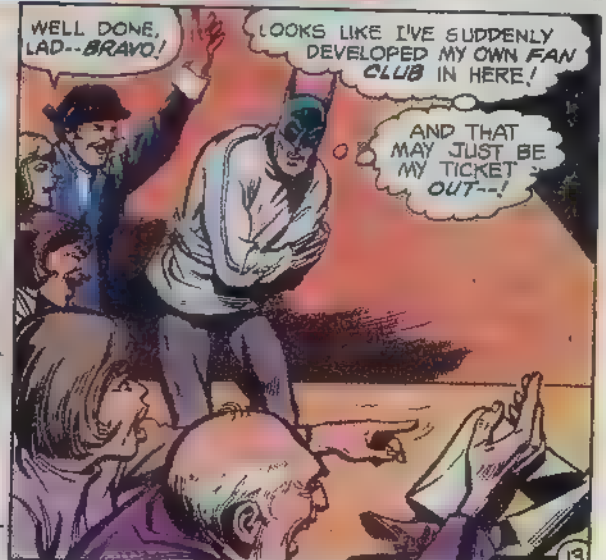
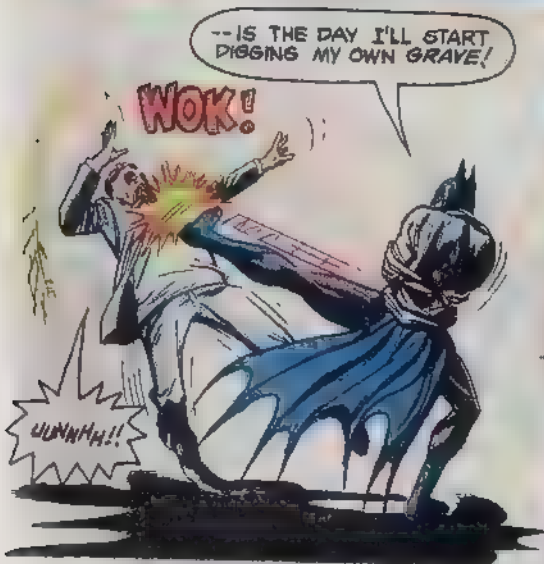
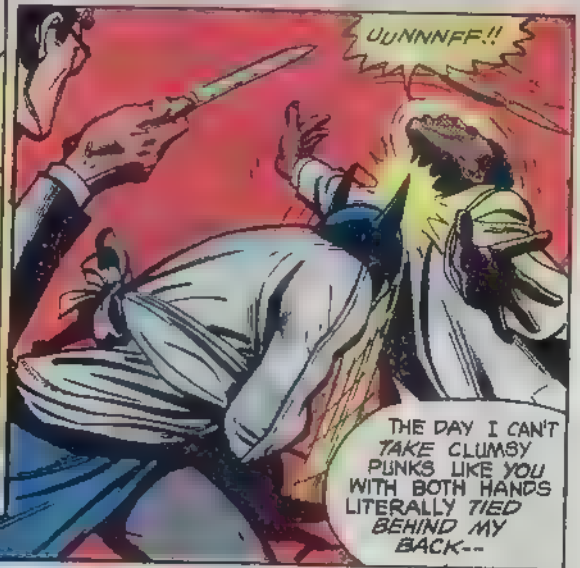
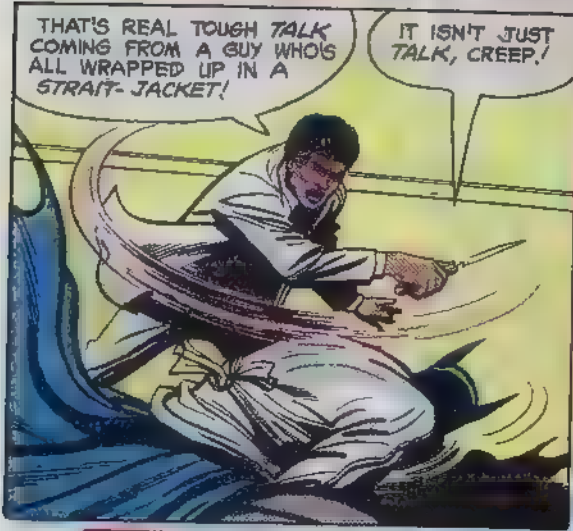
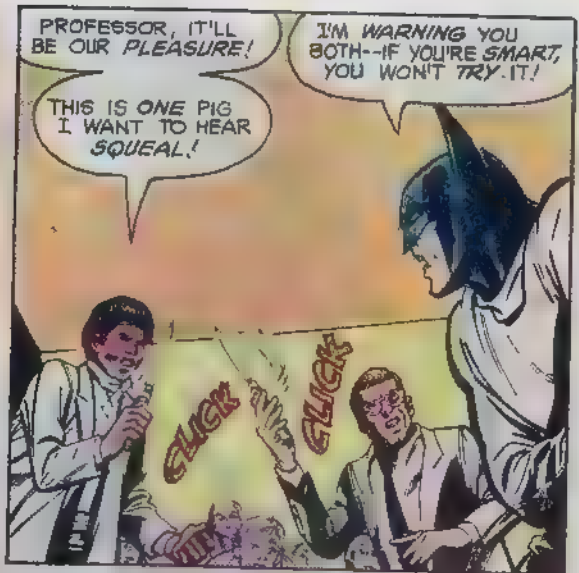
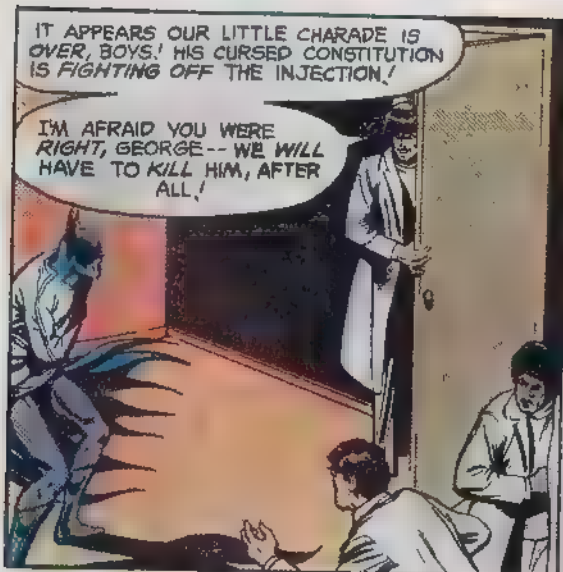
NO WONDER I
CAN'T EVEN THINK
STRAIGHT!

I'VE OBVIOUSLY BEEN
DRUGGED BY--

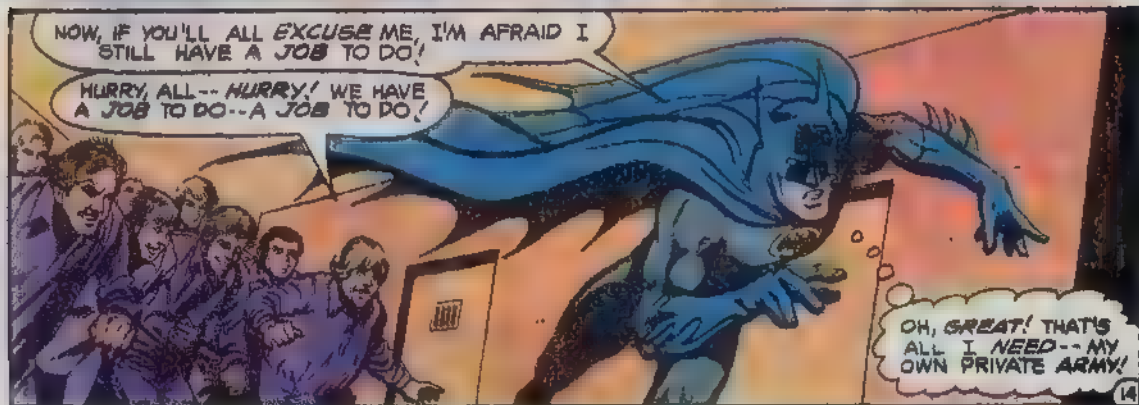
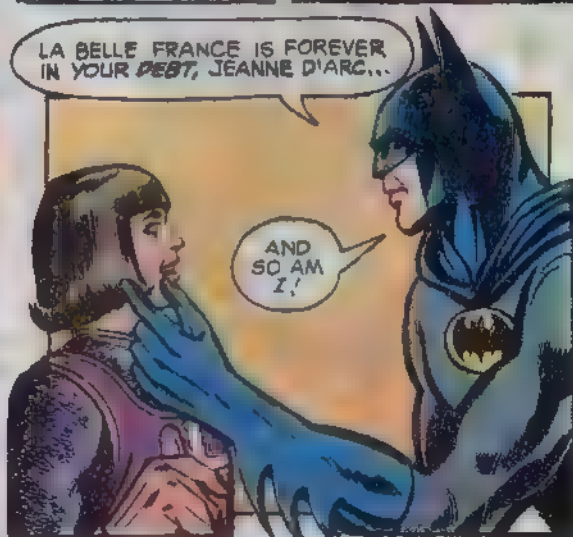
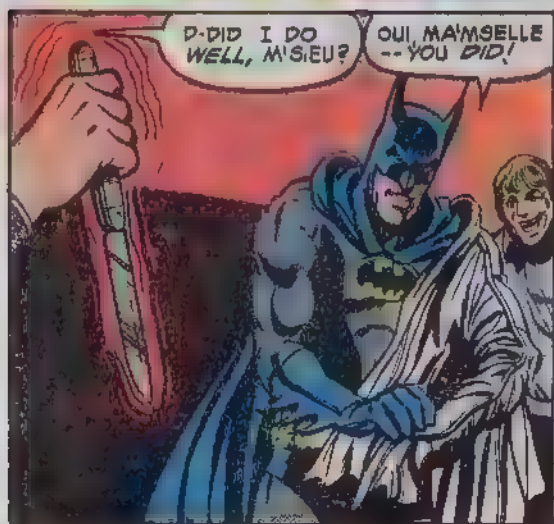
MILO!!

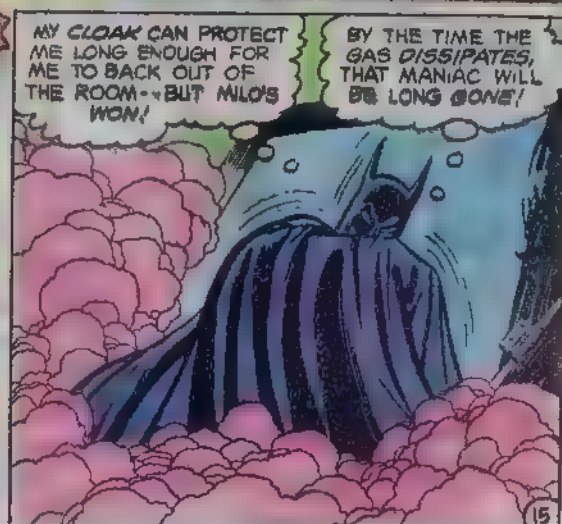
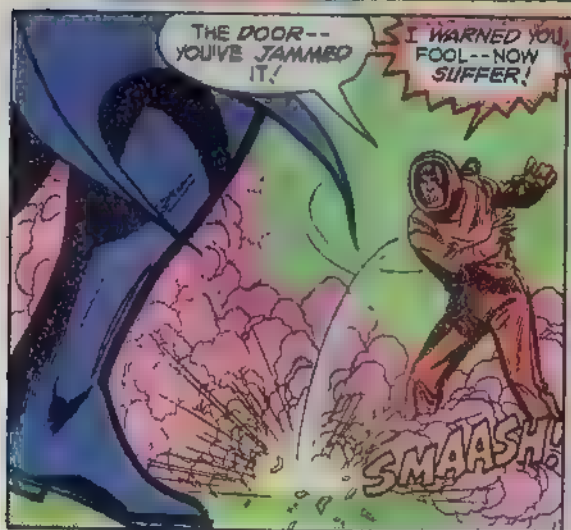
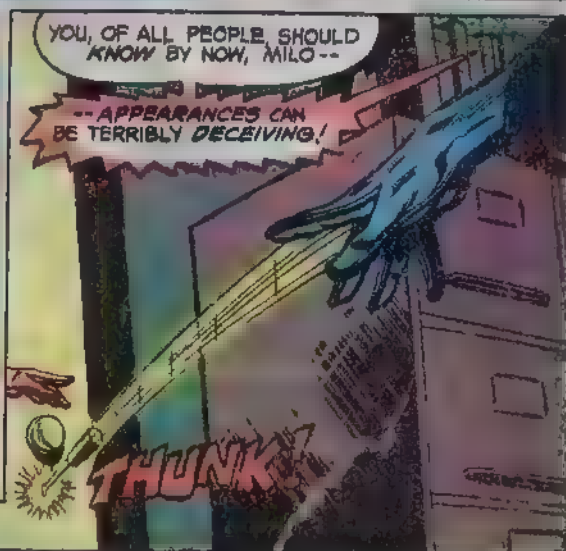
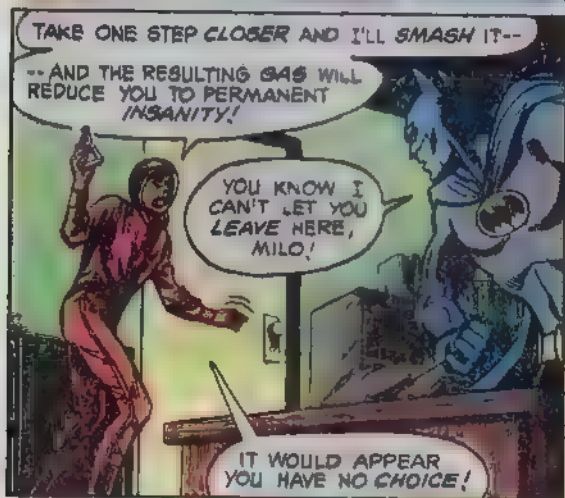
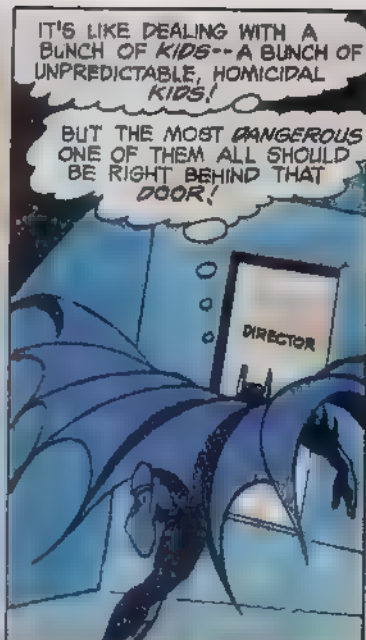
UH-OH!



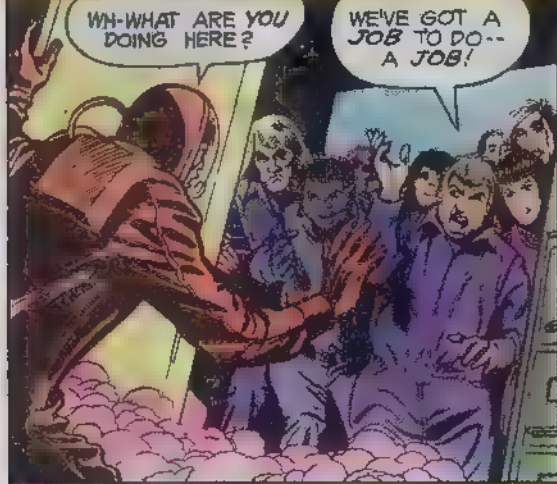


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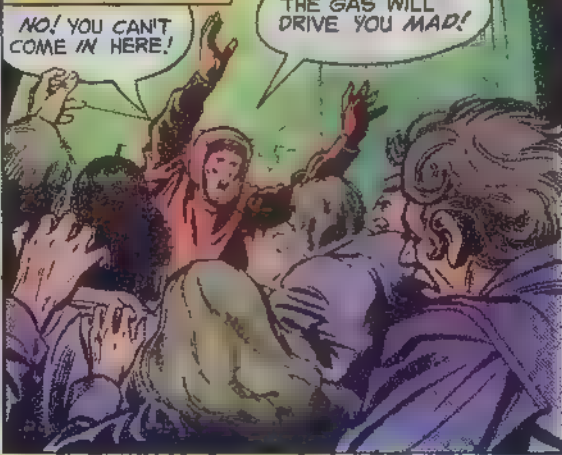
BUT EVEN AS THE DESPERATE MILO UNJAMS THE OTHER DOOR, AND THROWS IT OPEN...



WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

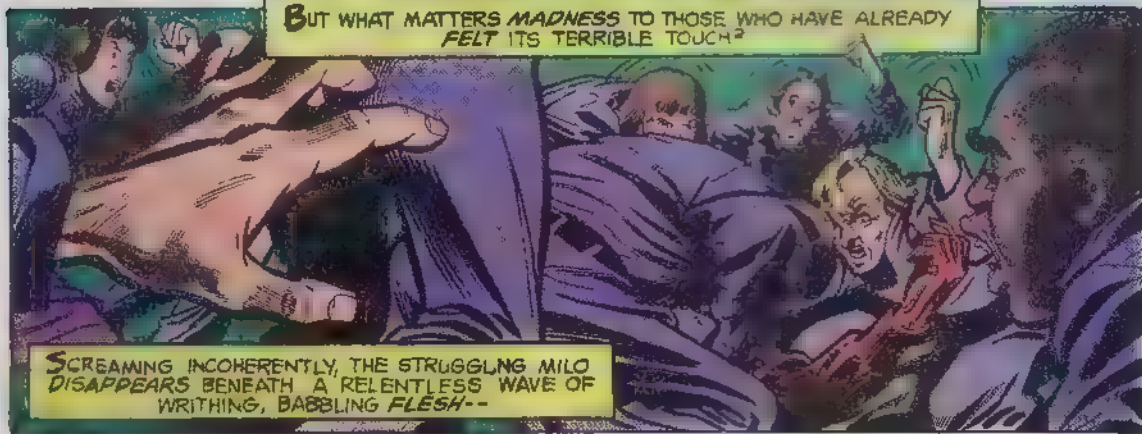
WE'VE GOT A JOB TO DO-- A JOB!

AND THEN, LIKE A SURGING TIDE, THEY ARE UPON HIM--SWEEPING INTO THE GAS-CHOKED OFFICE AS ONE, CHITTERING AND GIGGLING AS THEY COME...



NO! YOU CAN'T COME IN HERE!

THE GAS WILL DRIVE YOU MAD!



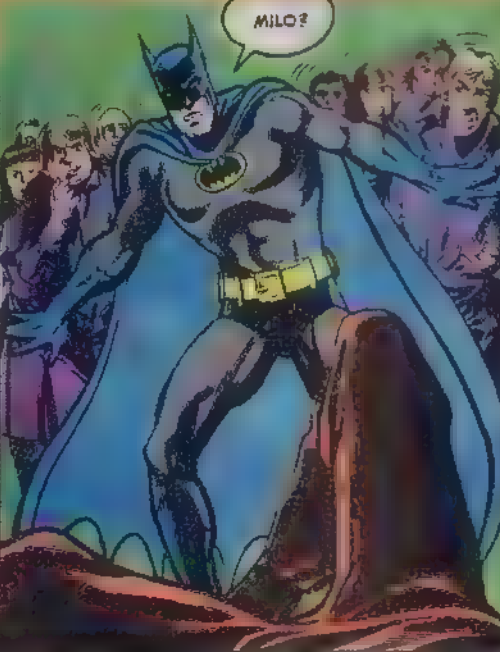
BUT WHAT MATTERS MADNESS TO THOSE WHO HAVE ALREADY FELT ITS TERRIBLE TOUCH?

SCREAMING INCOHERENTLY, THE STRUGGLING MILO DISAPPEARS BENEATH A RELENTLESS WAVE OF WRITHING, BABBLING FLESH--

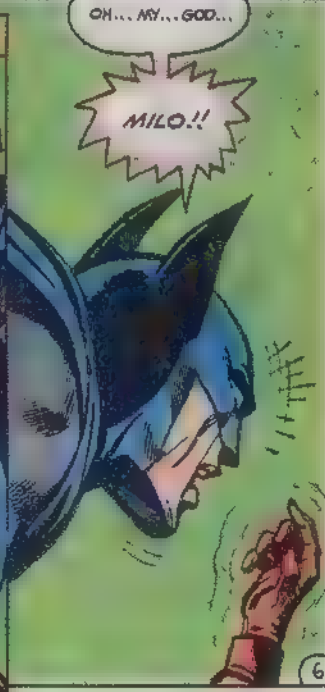
--AND WHEN THE GRIM BATMAN IS AT LAST ABLE TO RE-ENTER THE ROOM TO RESCUE THE HAPLESS PROFESSOR--



--IT IS ALREADY FAR, FAR TOO LATE!



MILO?



OH... MY... GOD...

MILO!!

BUT THE CREATURE THAT SITS
DROOLING ON THE COLD OFFICE
FLOOR, HIS PROTECTIVE HELMET
SHATTERED, CAN NO LONGER HEAR
THE DARKNIGHT DETECTIVE--

--CAN NO LONGER HEAR ANYTHING, IN FACT,
SAVE FOR THE PRIVATE DEMONS WHICH WILL
HAUNT HIM FROM THIS DAY FORWARD...

BY TOMORROW, EVERYTHING
WILL BE BACK TO NORMAL
HERE AT ARKHAM-- AND,
FOR SOME, IT WILL BE
A NEW BEGINNING.

HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH

BUT FOR OTHERS--
REGRETTABLY, IT
IS THE END!

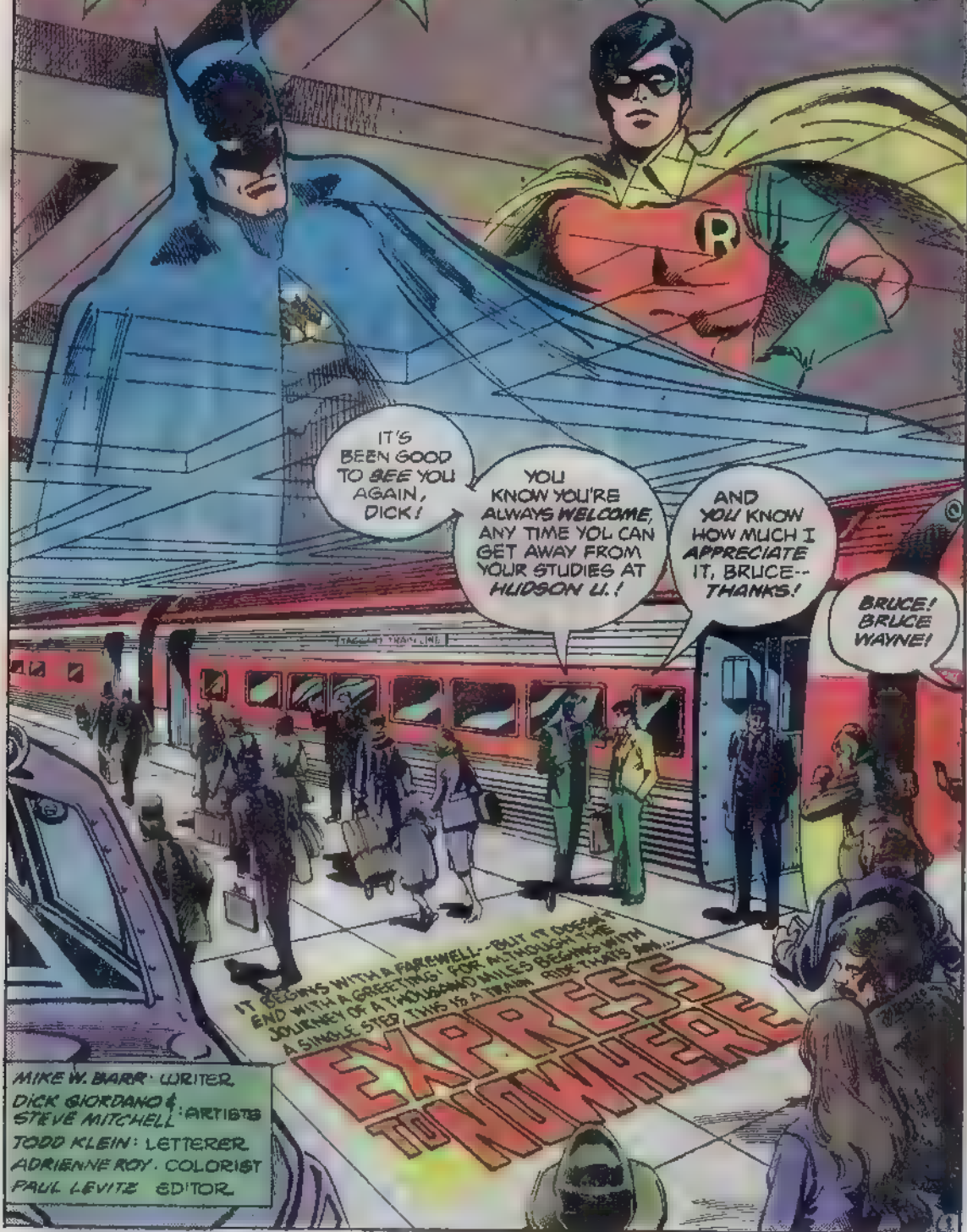
NEXT ISSUE: A JURY ACQUITTED HIM OF MURDER, BUT HE SAYS HE DID KILL THE VICTIM--
TWICE! AND HE'S CHALLENGING BATMAN TO PROVE IT! WHAT IS THE SECRET OF
"DOUBLE JEOPARDY!" PLUS: BATMAN IN A SPECIAL STORY
WITH COMMISSIONER GORDON!

MILLIONAIRE BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS WARD, DICK GRAYSON: ORPHANED IN SEPARATE TRAGEDIES WHEN CRIMINALS MURDERED THEIR PARENTS, JOIN FORCES TO COMBAT CRIME AND INJUSTICE AS THE DYNAMIC DUO--

BAT MAN

AND

ROBIN
THE TEEN WONDER



IT'S BEEN GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN, DICK!

YOU KNOW YOU'RE ALWAYS WELCOME, ANY TIME YOU CAN GET AWAY FROM YOUR STUDIES AT HUDSON U.!

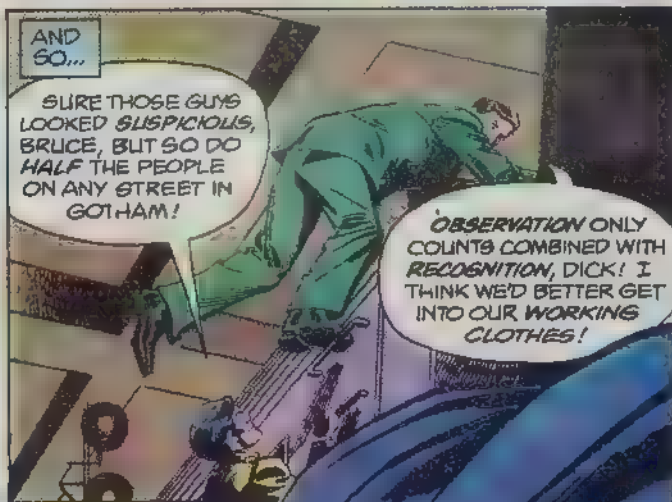
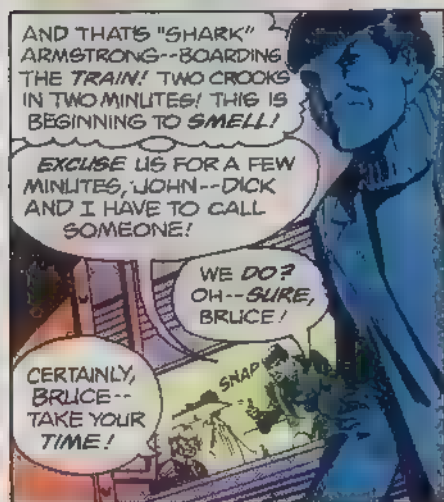
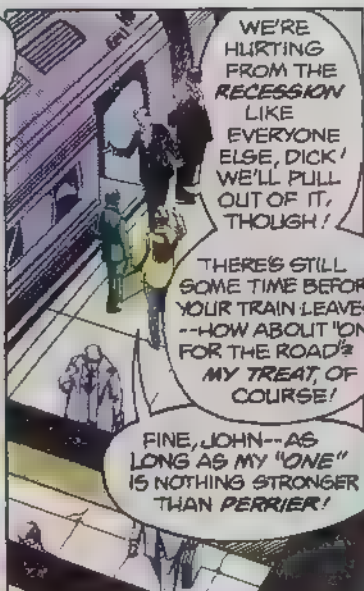
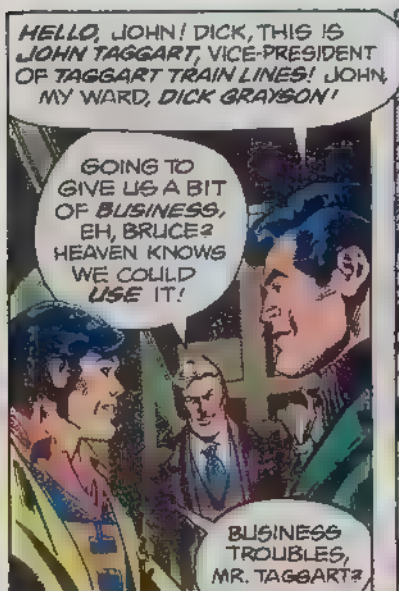
AND YOU KNOW HOW MUCH I APPRECIATE IT, BRUCE--THANKS!

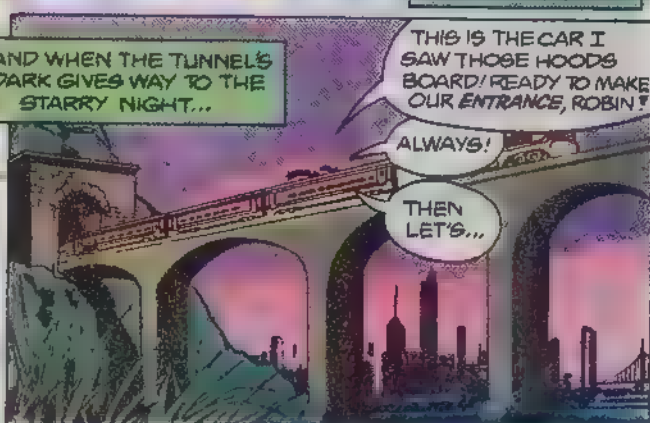
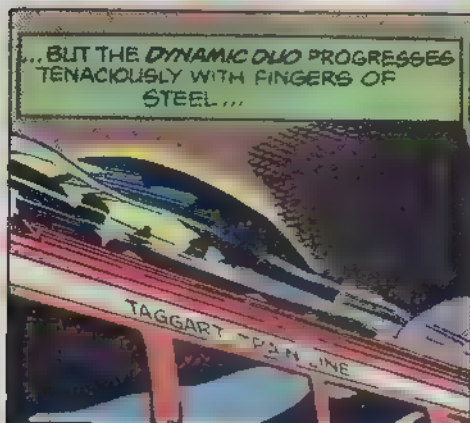
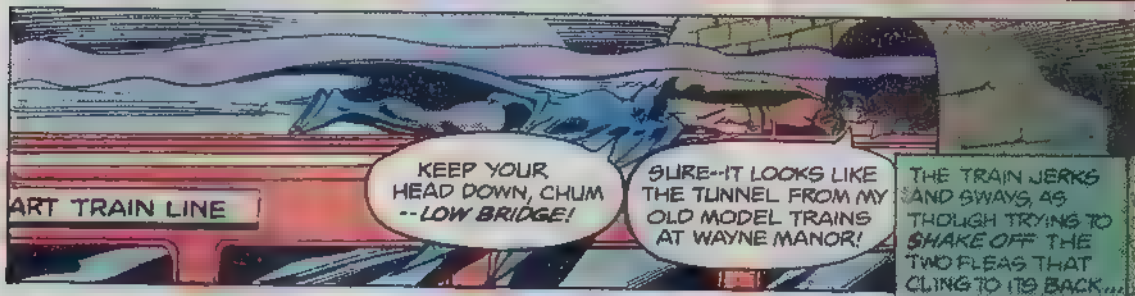
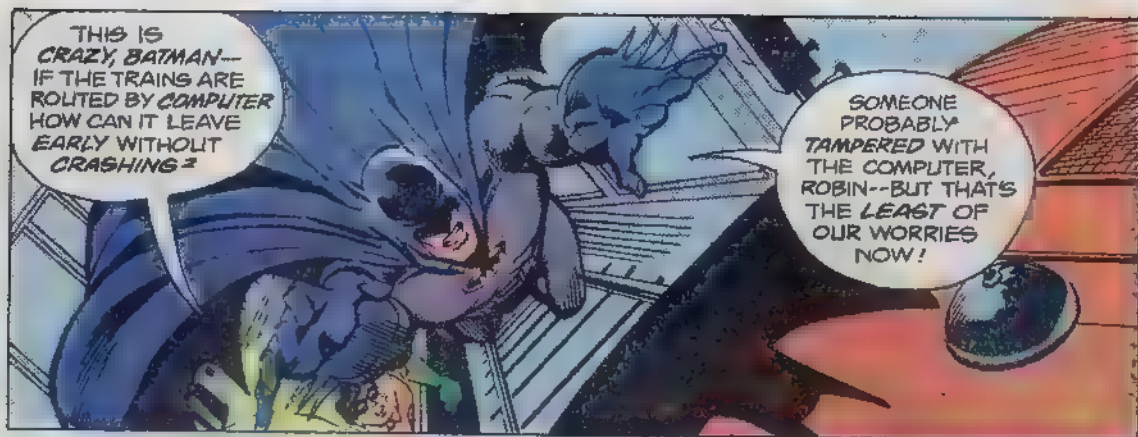
BRUCE! BRUCE WAYNE!

IT BEGINS WITH A FAREWELL--BUT IT DOESN'T END WITH A GREETING! FOR ALTHOUGH THE JOURNEY OF A TWO-DIGIT MILES BEGINS WITH A SINGLE STEP, THIS IS A TRAIN RIDE THAT'S AN...

EXPRESS TO NOWHERE

MIKE W. BARR: WRITER
DICK GIORDANO & STEVE MITCHELL: ARTISTS
TODD KLEIN: LETTERER
ADRIENNE ROY: COLORIST
PAUL LEVITZ: EDITOR







AND AS THE GOTHAM GOLIATHS
CHARGE INTO THE NEXT CAR...

I LOST MY GUN
BACK THERE--BUT
THAT DON'T STOP
YOU FROM TAKIN'
THE BIG FALL!

ROBIN!
YOU KNOW
WHAT TO
DO!

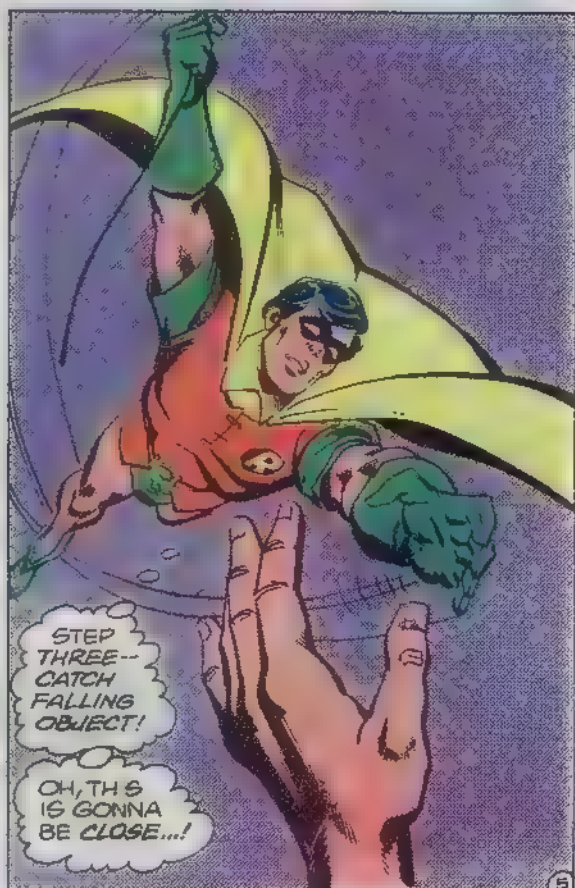
RIGHT,
BATMAN!

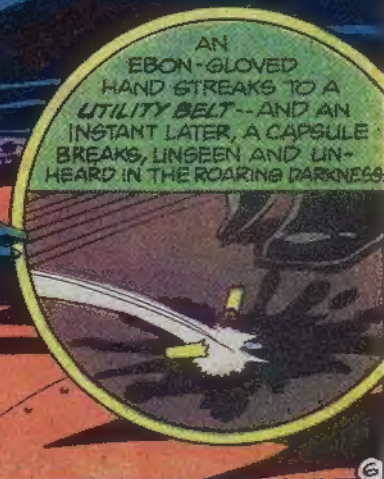
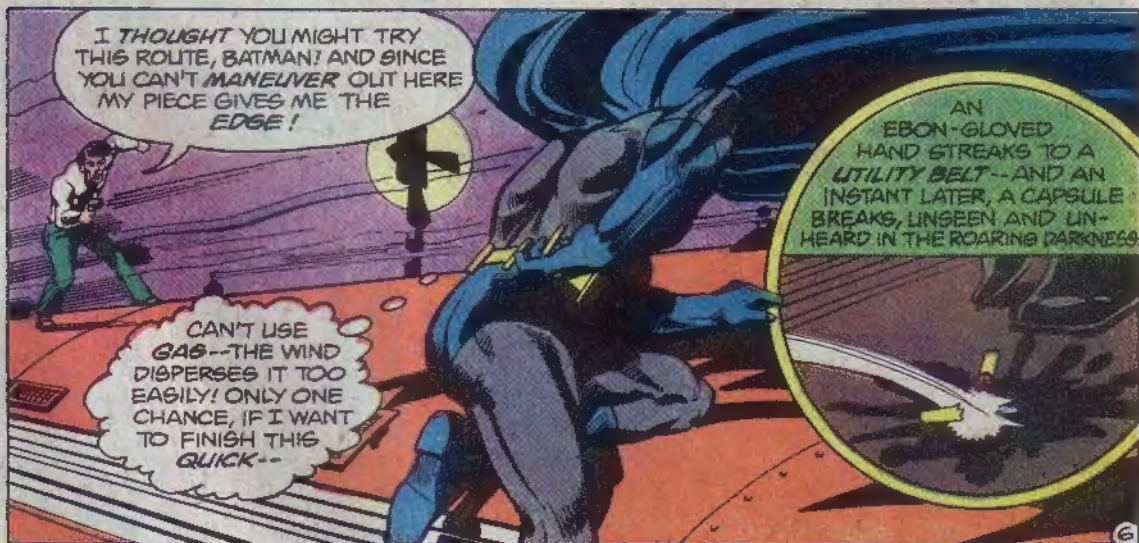
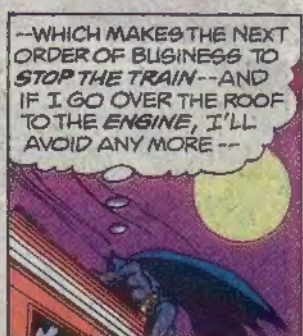
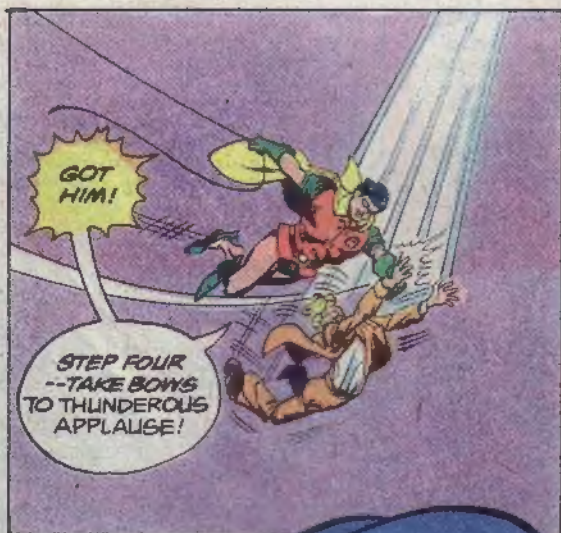
TOO LATE, BATMAN! THAT
CANARY CAN'T FLY WITHOUT
WINGS! HE'LL BE UNRECOG-
NIZABLE WHEN HE HITS
GROUND--LIHHH!

YOU MAY THINK
YOU'VE KILLED
THE GOVERNMENT'S
WITNESS, PLINK--

"...BUT ROBINS
CAN FLY, TOO!"

STEP ONE--
LASSO AN
OBLIGING
RAILROAD
TIE!







I DON'T MAKE IT EASY FOR HOODS WHO WANT TO MAKE REPS, GUNSEL-- YOU'LL HAVE TO COME AND GET ME!

YOU ASKED FOR IT, BAT--



WHAT--? OIL ON THE ROOF--CAN'T KEEP MY FOOTING...!

Noooo!



HE FELL BEFORE I COULD REACH HIM-- BUT HE SHOULD ONLY BE SHAKEN UP--IT'S A SHORT FALL.

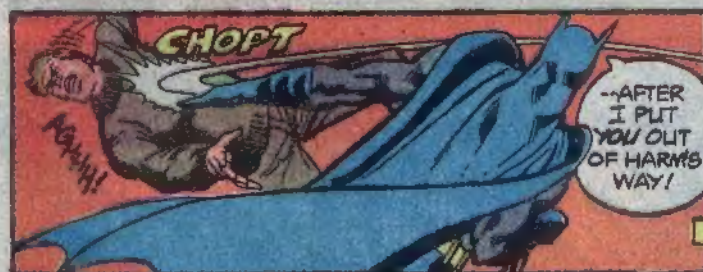
WE'RE APPROACHING A TOWN, BUT THE TRAIN'S NOT STOPPING-- GOT TO FIND OUT WHY!



B-BATMAN! SOMEONE SABOTAGED THE TRAIN--THE BRAKES, THE SAFETY DEVICES--THEY DON'T WORK!

THERE'S A HAIRPIN TURN BEFORE THE NEXT STOP-- WE'LL CRASH!

I CAN STOP THE TRAIN--



CHOPT

--AFTER I PUT YOU OUT OF HARM'S WAY!



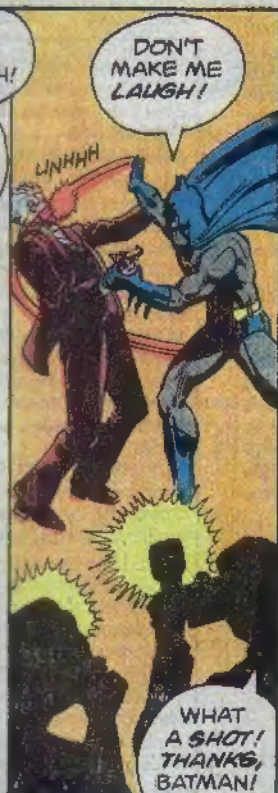
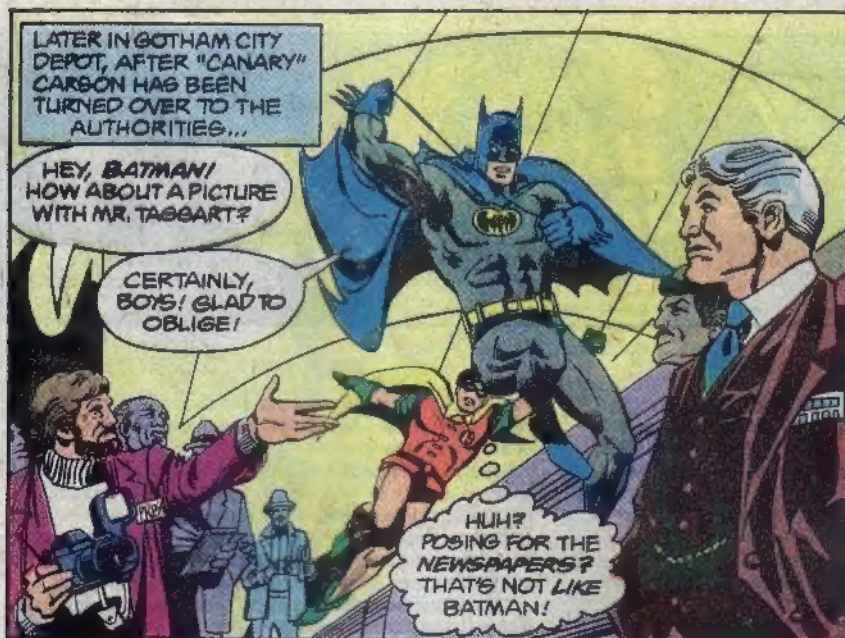
DIESEL-ELECTRIC LOCOMOTIVES ARE RUN BY GENERATED ELECTRICITY--THE GENERATORS ARE POWERED BY DIESEL ENGINES!

THESE ACID PELLETS WILL BURN THROUGH THE FUEL TANK, EMPTYING THE TANK...



WITHOUT FUEL, NO ELECTRICITY IS PRODUCED! AND WITHOUT ELECTRICITY, THE TRAIN STOPS!

I'VE GOT TO FIND ROBIN AND GET BACK TO GOTHAM CITY-- THIS CASE ISN'T OVER YET!





Dear Paul:

If I had to think of a good, solid villain to challenge Batman, chances are the first name that came to mind wouldn't be that Down-Under second-stringer Captain Boomerang. But, despite his Flash-affiliation, CB turns up in #322. That's bad, right?

Wrong. I liked #322, and it wasn't just because of my letter in *Bat-Signals*, it was many things. For one, Alfred's sincere inquiry, "Then you will be calling in Master Flash on this one, sir?" You just knew Bruce was going to be cranky over that, even if this was a *BRAVE AND BOLD* story where a Flash appearance would be inevitable. And, in spite of CB's inferiority, the duel of boomerangs between him and Batman was exciting and neatly executed.

Of course, the good Captain was not the true villain of the issue, even with his cover scene. The smoldering Catwoman sub-plot is beginning to catch on fire, and that takes precedence.

Hey, I'm ready for the Catwoman-Batman confrontation, and obviously, Paul, so are you. Let me have it!

Mark Lagasse
RD #1, Box 116
Hoosick Falls, NY 12090

Ready and done, Mark, as you've seen in the past few issues. Now we're setting our sights on new confrontations, which begin in this very issue. And, also beginning in this issue, is a new format, as we add an additional story to give each BATMAN 25 pages of new comics excitement. Sometimes it'll be a second Batman tale, or Batman and Robin like this month, sometimes a surprise...which with any luck, you'll find just as good (or even better than) the lead features we've run this past year!—PL

* * * * *

Dear Len,

Of all the comic book characters around, including Marvel's, Batman has always been my favorite. Yet, I hate to tell you this, but I didn't enjoy *BATMAN* #322.

I think the worst part was when Capt. Boomerang cut the newspaper van in two with his...uh...boomerang?? After seeing that I just couldn't enjoy the story. It was too silly.

I was wondering what stupid thing will happen next, and sure enough, there's a giant boomerang, then Batman trying to karate chop a boomerang thrown at him; then a boomerang-batarang duel. How can you do this to me!

I know the Batman has done some pretty weird things over the years, but I've always stuck with him. I know what the right writer and artist can do with him. How about giving me a little better Batman story next time?

William E. Torbett
1615 State Route 41 N.E.
Washington C.H., OH 43160

There's a tendency with a guest villain to carry over some of the flavor of comic where the villain usually appears, and we might have let some of Flash's fantasy-action slip in where it doesn't belong. Sorry.—PL

* * * * *

Dear Editor:

"Chaos—Coming and Going" could have been entitled *The Captain and the Catwoman*, as these two were the main

players in the story. I knew that the Catwoman sub-plot was coming to a climax, but I would never have predicted that her death was in the forecast.

Hopefully, Selina will be able to get her hands on a cure, because she is one character worth keeping around. The novelty of the story was provided by Captain Boomerang's motive for visiting Gotham: instead of planning a massive crime spree, he came strictly on business. It is kind of hard to imagine a super-villain planning his "legal" retirement.

The boomerang death-trap, although seen many times before in *THE FLASH*, was nice in that Batman had to escape it without any super-powers. A great thanks must go to Len for #322, and Novick and Collette did a very fine job with the art.

Kent A. Phenix
1082 Sherwood Court #603
Greenwood, IN 46142

We try to create a world in which anything is possible, Kent, from super-villains retiring to dying; or even being acquitted of their crimes. Marv Wolfman's debut as a Batman writer next month is marked by just such a crook, who adds insult to injury by writing Batman to say that he's guilty of the crimes he was acquitted of...and there's no way for Batman to prove otherwise! That's "Double Jeopardy" lurking behind a Kubert cover, backed up by the return of the Catwoman.—Paul Levitz

Because our new "fewer ads" policy has also eliminated the Daily Planet, we'll be incorporating a mini-checklist on this page from now on...and all Dollar Comics will include a full Planet listing.

NOW ON SALE

DC COMICS PRESENTS #25—*Superman and Phantom Stranger! Plus Whatever Happened To Hourman?*

THE FLASH #289—*Mister Element, Doctor Alchemy, and the debut of a new series of Firestorm stories!*

JUSTICE LEAGUE #182—*Will Green Arrow stick with the World's Greatest Super-Heroes? And why is the Elongated Man going solo?*

SUPERMAN #351—*Two sensational Superman stories in one issue—including an extraordinary art job by Jose Luis Garcia Lopez as Mr. Mxyzptik strikes again!*

WONDER WOMAN #271—*The new direction for Wonder Woman continues, and the Huntress premieres in her own series.*

SUPERMAN FAMILY #203—*Lois without her memory—Jimmy on the track of corruption—plus Supergirl, Mr. and Mrs. Superman, and more.*

COMING ATTRACTIONS

SUPERBOY #9—*THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES #267 (with a Steve Ditko story!)*—*BRAVE & BOLD #166 (teaming Batman and Black Canary against the Penguin, with Dick Giordano as guest artist!)*—*SUPER FRIENDS #36—GREEN LANTERN #132 (featuring Adam Strange)—WARLORD #37 (featuring Jim Starlin's Omac)—ACTION #511—ADVENTURE #475 (now including Aquaman)—DETECTIVE #494 (with Batman's identity revealed)—UNTOLD LEGEND OF THE BATMAN #3 (concluding the much talked-about mini-series)—and TEEN TITANS #1 (by Wolfman and Perez...need we say more!)*